Overview

Introduction   AV-SAVER is an acronym for "ArcView Safety Analysis, Visualization, and Exploration Resource". It is an interface between the user and ArcView, a GIS mapping software package. AV-SAVER's purpose is to provide access to crash, enforcement, and related data for Iowa counties and cities in order to produce easier, more consistent safety analyses.

AV-SAVER Capabilities   AV-SAVER can perform a range of functions, including:
- Creating maps
- Querying crash and enforcement data
- Reporting and displaying query results

AV-SAVER: e⁵   AV-SAVER (hereafter referred to simply as *SAVER*) is part of what is envisioned to be a small suite of "same look, same feel" mapping software interfaces. These interfaces will work with a variety of software and programming languages (Visual Basic, GeoMedia, and ArcGIS). The SAVER interfaces are designed to allow the following groups to do basic crash and enforcement data research within a GIS framework:
- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Emergency Response
- Education
- Everyone Else

In This Chapter   The following topics are discussed within this chapter of the AV-SAVER User's Guide:

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What's on the CD

CD Contents   The AV-SAVER CD contains:
- The SAVER project file, which includes the actual scripts and menus that drive the SAVER system;
- Crash data for Iowa counties;
- Geographic mapping data for Iowa counties;
- The SAVER configuration, definition, and operation files;
- Excel templates for producing attractive written reports; and
- Documentation for AV-SAVER

Data   The majority of the CD is filled with raw data along with the files that create and operate the SAVER interface within ArcView. You must copy the data correctly in order for SAVER to run properly. Refer to chapter 2 for installation instructions.

Data Quality   The data on this CD represents the best data available at this time. While the Iowa Department of Transportation attempts to ensure the accuracy of the crash data, non-uniform data collection methods and data checking can cause inaccuracies to occur. Thus, the complete accuracy of the crash data located on this CD can not be guaranteed. There are several reasons for this. The crash data is gathered from accident reports and manually submitted. While the accident report forms are an attempt at uniform standards, different cities and counties have different data needs. This sometimes prompts officers to collect and report data in different ways. Finally, some data is simply corrupt.

A Note About Improperly Located Data   Prior to the year 2000, roughly 8-10% of the reported crashes were not properly located. These crashes have been given coordinates that effectively place them in southeast Nebraska in order to minimize the chance that they may be selected accidentally but still leave them "near" to Iowa if the user wishes to view them. Approximately 3% of the Year 2000 crashes are located in the Nebraska region for this reason.

Terminology and Naming Conventions

Definitions   Several terms are defined in Appendix A of this manual. It is recommended that new users of SAVER refer to the terms and definitions to acquaint themselves with the GIS and SAVER-specific terminology.

File Naming Conventions   There are thousands of files associated with SAVER. You can create a few types of files within the SAVER system. For examples, these can be used to save:
- Reports you have generated,
- Particular searches that you would frequently perform, and
- County or city views that you frequently reference.

These files can be opened in other software packages for further enhancement or sharing, as well as be distributed, as desired.

It is recommended that you follow a uniform naming system. This allows you, and anyone else you wish to share your files with, to know at a glance the basic contents of the file.

Type	Description
Reports	These files are saved in the *C:/_saver/_user/_savedreports/* folder. These are saved as .dbf files, and a recommended naming standard is: *reports_savedreportselection.dbf* Add a descriptive name in front of "_savedreportselection.dbf". Do not use spaces in the name; if you need a space, use an underscore character.
Query	These files are saved in the *C:/_saver/_user/_savedqueries/* folder. These are saved as .dbf files, and a recommended naming standard is: *queries_savedquery.dbf* Add a descriptive name in front of "_savedquery.dbf". Do not use spaces in the name; if you need a space, use an underscore character.

ArcView

AV-SAVER vs. ArcView

AV-SAVER is an interface to ArcView. It uses ArcView-based data, scripts, dialogs, utilities, and functionality in order to perform the operations you request. Everything that an average user should need is contained within SAVER.

It is strongly urged that the ArcView functions themselves should only be directly accessed and used by analysts trained and skilled in the use of ArcView. However, a basic understanding of using ArcView maps and projects is vital to successful use of SAVER.

Vendor Documentation

Certain ArcView features and conventions will be discussed in this manual. If you need or want more information about ArcView, refer to vendor-supplied documentation. Document is included with the purchased ArcView software package. You may visit the vendor website at http://www.esri.com/ for downloads and other information about ArcView.

Contacts and Updates

Support Contacts   For technical support, contact:
       Michael D. Pawlovich
       Michael.Pawlovich@dot.state.ia.us
       (515) 239-1428

       For general information regarding AV-SAVER, please contact:
       Joyce Emery
       Joyce.Emery@dot.state.ia.us
       (515) 239-1016

Updates   Frequent updates are initially expected following the release of SAVER. These updates may include improvements to SAVER as well as to the data available for users.

Documentation   Several sources of additional documentation and help are available. You may visit the main Crash Analysis Resource page on the Iowa DOT website, located at: http://www.dot.state.ia.us/crashanalysis/ for links to SAVER information. Several things will be available from this site:
   - Updates to the project file,
   - Comment forms,
   - Examples,
   - Report and query templates, and
   - Presentations and papers.